

The following is the language that was approved by the IRB to justify recruiting political science students by giving them extra credit:

In order to ensure voluntary participation, participants will have the option of performing a non-experiment activity for extra credit. This option will ask students to write a 2 to 3 page response paper to a given week's reading material. The response involves crafting a summary of the author's main arguments and a critique of their primary claims.

Students are free to choose between the two options (experiment or reaction paper), and they will potentially receive the same amount of extra credit for each task.

Students from political science courses will be recruited through a presentation given by the investigator in each course. A general description of the experiment will also be appended to the syllabus of the course (attached).

This is the addendum that was suggested to be attached to professors' syllabi if they allowed me to recruit their students. In this description for the students, the explanation of the alternative writing assignment option is left intentionally vague so that professors can determine what is appropriate. I believe that the description of the alternative assignment can be changed around the margins, and I can simply request an amendment to my IRB application. As long as the change is not significant, it probably won't be a problem:

Extra Credit Opportunity

If you are over the age of 18, you will have the opportunity to participate in a study being conducted by the Political Science Department.

A researcher in the Political Science Department is conducting a study on how people form opinions and make political decisions in social situations. The study will ask participants to answer a series of questionnaire items in a computer lab setting. Participation in the study is estimated to take between 50 minutes and 1 hour.

As a participant in the study, you will be able to learn from the inside what exactly goes on in some of the political science studies that you read about. You will also contribute to our collective understanding about how people make political decisions.

Participating in the study will allow you to earn extra credit for your political science course. Your instructor has generously agreed to grant extra credit equivalent to 2 percentage points added to your final grade in exchange for the time it will take you to participate in this study. More details about specific times and locations at which you can participate are to be announced.

In addition, for those who would like to earn extra credit, but would not like to be a participant in the study, there will be an alternative writing assignment that students may complete. Students may only complete one of these options (participating in the study or completing the writing assignment) for extra credit. Details about the alternative writing assignment, including the scope and deadline, will be announced by your instructor.

If you have any questions about this research or your opportunity to participate, please contact David Hendry (hendry2@illinois.edu).